

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-10 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 SR-02 ORM-01 COME-00 INT-05 /079 W

----- 012071

R 210805Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2484

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 1872

ROME FOR FODAG (SKILES)

DEPT ALSO PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID SOCI SO

SUBJECT: FIELD TRIP--SOMALIA DROUGHT

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR, CLARY AND USIS PHOTOGRAPHER, TOGETHER WITH UN RESREP OSEROV, UNDP REP STEDMAN AND WFP REP OUFU, ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER MINISTER OF PLANNING MEGAG SAMANTAR (MEMBER OF CENTRAL DROUGHT COMMITTEE), HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM TWO DAY FIELD TRIP VISITING AFFECTED REGIONAL AREAS. WE WERE ABLE TO VISIT FOUR CAMPS IN THE AREA. WE ARE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH ORGANIZATION OF CAMPS AND EFFORTS DISPLAYED BY THE GSDR TO PROVIDE FOR NEEDS OF ITS DISPLACED PERSONS. SOME CAMP RESIDENTS ARE REFUGEES WHO HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER. END SUMMARY.

2. HAVING MADE OUR VISIT TO VARIOUS CAMPS, WE HAVE NO RPT NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THAT ESTIMATED FIGURES UNCLASSIFIED

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(78,000 ON MONDAY; 81,000 ON THURSDAY) ARE SUBSTANTIALLY

INCORRECT. IN REGIONS VISITED WE SAW PEOPLE STRAGGLING INTO CAMP AREAS AND IN TOGDHEER (BURAO) REGION SAW SOME OF THE 45 MILITARY VEHICLES AND MORE THAN 100 PRIVATE VEHICLES WHICH ARE COMING AREA FOR PEOPLE TOO WEAK TO MOVE CAMP ON FOOT. VEHICLES WE SAW WERE HEADING TOWARDS CAMP WITH FAMILY, HOUSE AND POSSESSIONS. COMMENT: MOST IF NOT ALL OF NOMADS HAVE A HOME WHICH CAN BE BROKEN DOWN, PACKED, MOVED AND SET UP AGAIN VERY EASILY. IT CONSISTS OF A FRAMEWORK COVERED BY BRANCHES AND VARIOUS SKINS. END COMMENT.

3. WE WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT FEATURES OF THE CAMPS VISITED. IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS IN MOST INSTANCES THEY HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED INTO GROUPS, USUALLY 25 HUTS TO A GROUP, ESTABLISHED GROUP KITCHENS, GROUP COMMITTEES FOR FOOD, HYGIENE, ETC. AND SCHEDULED CLASSES IN LITERACY. OVERALL THE CAMPS HAVE PROVIDED DISPENSARIES, LATRINE AND WATER FACILITIES, SEPARATED IN GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICE. THE CAMPS ARE CLEAN, WELL REGIMENTED AND HAVE AN APPEARANCE AT LEAST OF WELL ADAPTING TO SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

4. WE DID NOT SEE ANY CASES OF APPARENT MALNUTRITION AND IN MOST INSTANCES THE PEOPLE SEEMED AS HEALTHY AS COULD BE EXPECTED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. WE SAW CASES OF DIARRHEA AFFECTING CHILDREN. IN MOST INSTANCES, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE CHILDREN HAD IMPROVED FOLLOWING THEIR ARRIVAL IN CAMP. THE TWO DOCTORS WE HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH INDICATED A SHORTAGE OF MEDICAMENTS, WHEREAS THE TECHNICIANS WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH INDICATED SUFFICIENT MEDICINES. DOCTOR WAS PRESUMABLY INCLUDING VITAMINS AND OTHER THERAPEUTIC MEDICINES WHILE TECHNICIAN DELIGHTED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT PILLS TO TREAT DIARRHEA OR SALVE FOR EYE SORES. SOME MEASLES, SOME CHICKEN POX AND EYE SORES CAUSED BY DUST TOGETHER WITH DIARRHEA PROVIDED MAJORITY OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS. WHILE NOT ALL CAMPS HAVE DOCTORS, ALL CAMPS DO HAVE ONE OR TWO NURSES, DRESSERS AND OTHER MEDICAL TECHNICIANS. FOR THE MOMENT, MEDICAL SUPPLIES SEEM SUFFICIENT.

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5. RATIONS FOR THE MOST PART CONSIST OF RICE, OIL, SUGAR, DATES, SOME MILK, TEA AND IN SOME INSTANCES CAMEL MEAT. CAMPS WE VISITED HAD RATIONS FOR ONE WEEK AND DID NOT SEEM TO ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEM OBTAINING MORE FROM THE REGIONAL WAREHOUSES. COMMENT: FOOD SUPPLIES SEEM TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM FACED BY GSDR ACCORDING TO MEGAG SAMANTAR. OTHER CABLE TRAFFIC RE THIS SUBJECT. END COMMENT. THERE APPEARS TO BE

NO RPT NO PLAN AFOOT TO MODIFY OR REDUCE THE RATION IN THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
KIRK

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